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Royal Geographical Society.

1840.

AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 25th MAY, 1840,

The following Report from the Council was read:—

The Council has again the satisfaction of being enabled to lay before the Society a favourable statement of its affairs, classed under the usual heads.

Since our last anniversary sixty-five new Members have been elected; twenty-five vacancies by death and resignation have occurred; and the Society now consists of 697 Members, besides sixty Foreign Honorary and Corresponding Members.

Finances.—The state of the finances, the details of which are annexed, continues satisfactory. The expenditure for the past year has been considerable, in consequence of 100*l.* having been paid towards the Guayana expedition, 50*l.* for exploring the White Nile, and 685*l.* towards the expedition to Kurdistán; yet it is gratifying to add that these demands have been paid out of the annual income of the Society, which continues steadily to increase by the contributions of new Members.

The sum of 300*l.* stock has been sold out of the funds to meet the expense of fitting and furnishing the new apartments now occupied by the Society in Waterloo Place; leaving the sum of 4500*l.* as the capital stock invested in the funds.

Publications.—The Journal of the Society for 1839, as during the past year, has been issued in three parts; the edition also has

been increased to 1500 copies; but as 800 copies are annually distributed gratuitously to members and different Societies at home and abroad, this number is found to be only sufficient to meet the demand on the part of the public.

Yet, notwithstanding the heavy expense thus incurred, the Council, looking upon the wide diffusion of correct geographical information as an object of paramount importance, has, at the suggestion of Major Jervis, of the East India Company's Engineers, directed a complete set of the Geographical Journal to be transmitted to the public library of each of the ten principal civil and military stations in British India; namely, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, M'how, Dumdum, Khanpore, Meerut, and Dehli; and they trust that this liberality will meet with corresponding zeal and exertion on the part of officers of the Indian army and navy, to whom the Council thankfully acknowledge they are indebted for numerous papers of high interest which have appeared in the Geographical Journal.

As the close of this year will complete ten volumes of the Journal, the Council have directed a classified index of the contents of the whole to be prepared, ready to be issued early in the ensuing spring, which will much enhance the value of the work as a book of reference.

Her Majesty's Donation.—As mentioned in the Report of last year, it has been decided to convert the Royal Premium into two gold medals of equal value: acting upon this decision the Council has awarded the Patron's medal for the year 1839 to Mr. Robert H. Schomburgk, for his perseverance and success in exploring the territory and investigating the resources of the colony of British Guayana, and a large tract of the continent of South America immediately adjoining.

The Council has in like manner awarded the Founder's Medal to Major Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, of the Bombay army, in testimony of the services he has rendered to geography by his researches in Susiana and Persian Kurdistan, and for the light thrown by him on the comparative geography of those regions.

Original Expeditions.—Of the expeditions more immediately under the control of the Society, the objects of that under the

charge of Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Rassam, undertaken in conjunction with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, were given in detail in a former report.

During the past year the travellers starting from Angora have explored that part of Asia Minor lying between that place and Malátiyah—including the Haïmáneh, the great salt lake of Tuz Chuli, Kaisariyah, Gurún, and the valley of Tokmah Sú; thence by the Nushan Pass, through Mount Taurus to Sameísat and Bírehjik on the Euphrates.

While at this latter place they were present at the battle of Nezib, the result of which obliged them to return to Constantinople, whence Messrs. Ainsworth and Rassam again set out in October last, and at the date of their last despatches, on the 12th of March, were at Mosúl, waiting for the melting of the snows to penetrate into the mountains of Kurdistán. A detailed report of their journey across Asia Minor will appear in the volume to be published in the course of the year.

Foreign and Colonial Correspondence.—Two Corresponding Members have been added to our list since the last anniversary, namely, Mr. Gerold Meyen Von Knonau at Zurich, and Professor K. E. Von Baer at St. Petersburg; and the Council have great pleasure in witnessing the gradual increase of the Foreign and Colonial Correspondence of the Society.

Library.—A list of accessions made to the library, consisting of upwards of 540 volumes and 680 maps and charts, is printed with this Report. For many of these works the Society is indebted to the liberality of Foreign Academies, and to the Dépôts de la Guerre et de la Marine at Paris, &c., but more especially to the munificence of His Majesty the King of Bavaria for the recent donation of the beautiful “Atlas Topographique” of that kingdom in 100 sheets.

Arrears.—The Council regret to find that the arrears of subscriptions are great—an evil almost unavoidable in a Society chiefly composed of travellers and of officers resident out of England; but they feel it their duty to announce to the Society at

large that the third regulation of its rules, which directs "that the names of all defaulters, after sufficient warning, shall be struck off the list of members," will in future be strictly enforced.

In conclusion, the Council beg to express their thanks to the President and Council of the Horticultural Society for their liberality in allowing the use of their public room for our meeting.

They also have great satisfaction in congratulating the Society on having obtained suitable apartments, and they confidently trust that the accommodation now afforded to members will lead to the speedy completion of a collection of books, maps, and instruments worthy of the more extended sphere of usefulness which they contemplate as within the reach of a Geographical Society.

At a Special Meeting of the Council of the Society, held on the 27th February, 1840, the following Address to the Throne was agreed upon.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble and loyal Address of the President, Council, and Members of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, your MAJESTY's dutiful and loyal subjects, the President, Council, and Members of the Royal Geographical Society, beg leave to approach your Throne and respectfully to offer our sincere and cordial congratulations on the auspicious union of your MAJESTY with His Royal Highness Prince ALBERT of Saxe Coburg and Gotha.

Honoured as the Geographical Society especially is by your MAJESTY's royal patronage, we gladly embrace the joyful occasion now offered to us of repeating our grateful acknowledgments for your MAJESTY's condescension and munificence in promoting geographical science and discovery.

Little more than two years have elapsed since your MAJESTY succeeded to the throne of your ancestors; yet in that short period geographical discovery, both in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, has made rapid progress, and the name of VICTORIA is now extended to various portions, heretofore unexplored, of the remotest quarters of the globe.

His Royal Highness's attachment to science and literature is well known, and we hail the alliance of your MAJESTY with Prince ALBERT of Saxe Coburg and Gotha as an earnest that your MAJESTY will continue to extend your fostering patronage to those peaceful pursuits which so materially conduce to the real glory of a nation.

That your MAJESTY's union may be attended with every happiness that a free and grateful people can desire—that the blessing of the Almighty may descend on yourself and on your princely consort—and that your MAJESTY's reign may be rendered illustrious by the extension of science and the peaceful arts—is the ardent prayer of your MAJESTY's loyal and devoted subjects the President, Council, and Members of the Royal Geographical Society.

(Signed)

G. B. GREENOUGH, President,
&c.

JOHN WASHINGTON,
Secretary.

BALANCE-SHEET

Dr.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand, January 1st, 1839	415	18	9
Entrance of 63 Members at 3 <i>l</i>	189	0	0
Composition of 28 Members at 17 <i>l</i>	476	0	0
Subscriptions of 267 Members at 2 <i>l</i>	534	12	0
Arrears paid up	50	4	0
Dividends on Stock (4800 <i>l</i> . reduced 3½)	168	0	0
Royal Premium	52	10	0
Journals sold in 1839	161	1	7
Church Missionary Society for Cree Grammar	30	0	0
Donation to Kurdistan Expedition	300	0	0
Sale of 300 <i>l</i> . Stock (reduced 3½) at 97⅔	296	5	0

£2,673 11 4

The above Accounts have been compared with the
 (Signed) { JAMES MEEK.
 { SAMUEL CHARTERS.

FOR 1839.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
House-rent	235	0	0
Salaries	280	0	0
Printing Journal, Vol. VIII. (1250 copies)	327	12	3
Reprinting Journal, Vol. III. Part II. (250 copies)	42	7	6
Illustrations for Vol. VIII. (13 maps)	197	3	0
————— for Vol. IX. Part I. (in part)	21	15	8
Kurdistán Expedition	685	8	6
Guayana Expedition	100	0	0
White Nile Expedition	50	0	0
New Zealand Expedition	9	9	0
Die of Patron's Medal	52	10	0
Two Gold Medals	48	10	0
Books and Maps	87	10	6
Collector	21	0	0
Printing Cree Grammar	10	0	0
Stationery	16	8	7
Messenger and Carriage of Parcels, &c.	23	17	0
Housekeeper's Wages	12	8	0
Postage of Letters	17	1	0
Expenses of Evening Meetings	11	7	0
Firing and Lights	16	11	0
Insurance, Advertisements, and Power of Attorney	3	14	0
Expenses of Furniture and Fitting No. 3, Waterloo Place:—			
Repairs, Cleaning, Painting, Whitewashing, &c.	34	0	0
Altering Chart-cases, Fitting Book-shelves, long Table, &c.	23	0	0
Large Bookcase in Front Room	23	7	0
Two smaller Bookcases, Painting Map Room, &c.	31	0	0
Fire-irons, Fenders, Lamps, &c.	27	5	7
Large Table in Front Room and one Library Table	21	0	0
Carpets, 158½ yards	29	14	5
Law Expenses on Agreement, &c.	10	13	0
Fitting Map Room, Wood, and Wages	16	3	0
Cartons for Maps, seventy-six in number	11	8	0
Library Table and three Pembroke Tables	13	6	0
Chairs, three dozen, Library Chair, Drugget, &c.	13	13	6
Clock for Library (since presented by Mr. Vulliamy)	8	0	0
Expenses for Porters moving Books, &c.	3	17	6
Furniture for House, as Brooms, Brushes, Door Mats, &c.	3	12	0
	270	0	0
Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1839	133	18	4
	£2,673	11	4

(Signed) JOHN BIDDULPH, Treasurer.

vouchers, and found to be correct.—14th April, 1840.

ESTIMATE FOR 1840.

Dr.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand (1st January, 1840)	.	.	133 18 4	House-rent	.	.	250 0 0
Probable Amount of Subscriptions, viz.				Salaries	.	.	300 0 0
Entrance of 60 Members	.	£180		Printing Journal Vol. IX. (1500 copies)	.	.	400 0 0
Composition of 25 ditto	.	425		Illustrations for Journal	.	.	150 0 0
Subscriptions of 260 ditto	.	520		Kurdistan Expedition	.	.	500 0 0
		—	1,125 0 0	Books and Maps	.	.	100 0 0
Areas likely to be recovered	.	.	100 0 0	Royal Premium	.	.	52 10 0
Dividends on Stock 4500 <i>l.</i> (reduced 3 <i>½</i>)	.	.	158 0 0	Collector	.	.	21 0 0
Sale of Journal	.	.	160 0 0	Office Expenses, including Firing, Lights, Meetings, Stationery, Postage, Carriage of Parcels	.	.	100 0 0
Royal Premium	.	.	52 10 0				
Christian Knowledge Society for Kurdistan expedition	.	.	250 0 0				
			£1,979 8 4				£1,873 10 0

(Signed)

JOHN WASHINGTON,
Secretary.